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THE  
CULPRIT FAY.

A POEM  
BY JOSEPH RODMAN DRAKE.

*With One Hundred Illustrations, by Arthur Lumley.*



NEW YORK:  
CARLETON, PUBLISHER.  
MDCCCLXX.

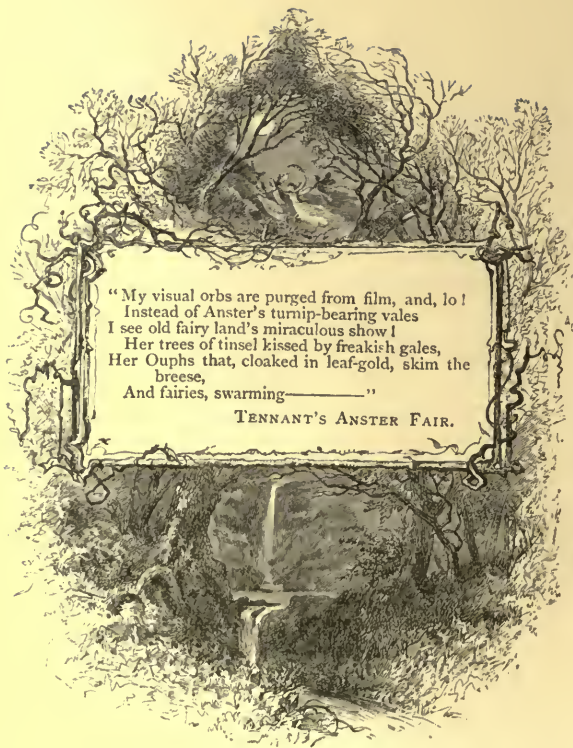
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"The exquisite poem of 'THE CULPRIT FAY,' was composed hastily among the Highlands of the Hudson, in the summer of 1819. The author was walking with some friends on a warm moonlight evening, when one of the party remarked that it would be difficult to write a faery poem, purely imaginative, without the aid of human characters. The party was reassembled two or three days afterwards and 'THE CULPRIT FAY' was read to them, nearly as it is now printed."





"My visual orbs are purged from film, and, lo!  
Instead of Anster's turnip-bearing vales  
I see old fairy land's miraculous show!  
Her trees of tinsel kissed by freakish gales,  
Her Ouphs that, cloaked in leaf-gold, skim the  
breese,  
And fairies, swarming——"

TENNANT'S ANSTER FAIR.







Tis the middle watch of a summer's night—

- The earth is dark, but the heavens are  
bright ;

Naught is seen in the vault on high  
But the moon, and the stars, and the  
cloudless sky,

And the flood which rolls its milky hue,  
A river of light on the welkin blue.

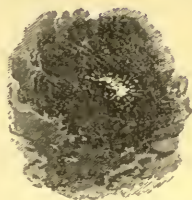
The moon looks down on old Cronest,  
She mellows the shades on his shaggy  
breast,

And seems his huge grey form to throw  
In a silver cone on the wave below ;

His sides are broken by spots of shade,  
By the walnut bough and the cedar made,

And through their clustering branches dark  
Glimmers and dies the fire-fly's spark—

Like starry twinkles that momentarily break,  
Through the rifts of the gathering tempest's  
rack.





The stars are on the moving stream,  
And fling, as its ripples gently flow,  
A burnished length of wavy beam  
In an eel-like, spiral line below ;

The winds are whist, and the owl is still,  
The bat in the shelvy rock is hid,



And naught is heard on the lonely hill  
But the cricket's chirp, and the answer  
shrill

Of the gauze-winged katy-did ;  
And the plaint of the wailing whip-poor-  
will,

Who moans unseen, and ceaseless sings,  
Ever a note of wail and woe,  
Till morning spreads her rosy wings,  
And earth and sky in her glances glow.





'Tis the hour of fairy ban and spell ;  
The wood-tick has kept the minutes well ;  
He has counted them all with click and  
stroke  
Deep in the heart of the mountain oak,

And he has awakened the sentry elfe  
Who sleeps with him in the haunted tree,  
To bid him ring the hour of twelve,  
And call the fays to their revelry ;

Twelve small strokes on his tinkling bell—  
(’Twas made of the white snail’s pearly  
shell ;)

“ Midnight comes, and all is well !

Hither, hither, wing your way !

’Tis the dawn of the fairy-day.”





They come from beds of lichen green,  
They creep from the mullen's velvet screen ;  
Some on the backs of beetles fly  
From the silver tops of moon-touched trees,  
Where they swung in their cobweb hammocks  
high,  
And rocked about in the evening breeze ;



Some from the hum-bird's downy nest—

They had driven him out by elfin power,  
And pillowed on plumes of his rainbow breast,  
Had slumbered there till the charmed hour ;

Some had lain in the scoop of the rock,  
With glittering ising-stars inlaid ;

And some had opened the four-o'clock,  
And stole within its purple shade.  
And now they throng the moonlight glade,  
Above—below—on every side,  
Their little minim forms arrayed  
In the tricksey pomp of fairy pride!





They come not now to print the lea,  
In freak and dance around the tree,  
Or at the mushroom board to sup,  
And drink the dew from the butter-cup ;

A scene of sorrow waits them now,  
For an Ouphe has broken his vestal vow ;

He has loved an earthly maid,  
And left for her his woodland shade ;

He has lain upon her lip of dew,  
And sunned him in her eye of blue,

Fanned her cheek with his wing of air,  
Played in the ringlets of her hair,

And, nestling on her snowy breast,  
Forgot the lily-king's behest.

For this the shadowy tribes of air  
To the elfin court must haste away :—



And now they stand expectant there,  
To hear the doom of the culprit Fay.





The throne was reared upon the grass,  
Of spice-wood and the sassafras ;

On pillars of mottled tortoise-shell

    Hung the burnished canopy—

And over it gorgeous curtains fell

    Of the tulip's crimson drapery. •

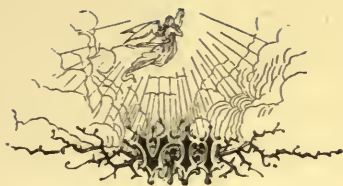
The monarch sat on his judgment-seat,



On his brow the crown imperial shone,  
The prisoner Fay was at his feet,  
And his peers were ranged around the  
throne,

He waved his sceptre in the air,  
He looked around and calmly spoke ;  
His brow was grave and his eye severe,  
But his voice in a softened accent broke :





“Fairy! Fairy! list and mark:

Thou hast broke thine elfin chain;  
Thy flame-wood lamp is quenched and dark,  
And thy wings are dyed with a deadly  
stain—

Thou hast sullied thine elfin purity  
In the glance of a mortal maiden's eye,

Thou hast scorned our dread decree,  
And thou shouldst pay the forfeit high.

But well I know her sinless mind  
Is pure as the angel forms above,  
Gentle and meek and chaste and kind,  
Such as a spirit well might love ;

Fairy ! had she spot or taint,  
Bitter had been thy punishment.



Tied to the hornet's shardy wings ;  
Tossed on the pricks of nettle stings ;

Or seven long ages doomed to dwell  
With the lazy worm in the walnut-shell ;

Or every night to writhe and bleed  
Beneath the tread of the centipede ;

Or bound in a cobweb Dungeon dim,  
Your jailer a spider huge and grim,

Amid the carrion bodies to lie,  
Of the worm, and the bug, and the murdered fly ;

These it had been your lot to bear,  
Had a stain been found on the earthly fair.

Now list and mark our mild decree—

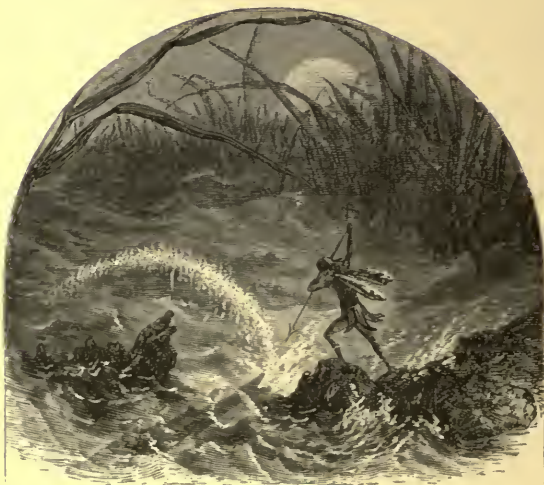
Fairy, this your doom must be :







“Thou shalt seek the beach of sand  
Where the water bounds the elfin land ;  
  
Thou shalt watch the oozy brine  
Till the sturgeon leaps in the bright moon-  
shine,

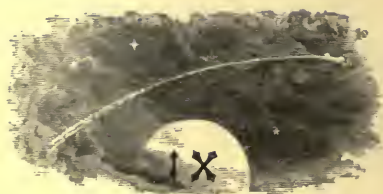


Then dart the glistening arch below,  
And catch a drop from his silver bow.

The water-sprites will wield their arms  
And dash around with roar and rave,  
And vain are the woodland spirits' charms,  
They are the imps that rule the wave.

Yet trust thee in thy single might:  
If thy heart be pure and thy spirit right  
Thou shalt win the warlock fight.





“If the spray-bead gem be won,

The stain of thy wing is washed away :

But another errand must be done

Ere thy crime be lost for aye ;

Thy flame-wood lamp is quenched and dark.

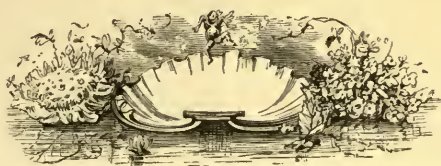
Thou must reillumine its spark.

Mount thy steed and spur him high  
To the heaven's blue canopy ;

And when thou seest a shooting star,  
Follow it fast, and follow it far—

The last faint spark of its burning train  
Shall light the elfin lamp again.

Thou hast heard our sentence, Fay ;  
Hence ! to the water-side, away !”





The goblin marked his monarch well ;  
He spake no word, but he bowed him  
low,  
Then plucked a crimson colen-bell,  
And turned him round in act to go.

The way is long, he cannot fly,  
His soiled wing has lost its power,  
And he winds adown the mountain high,  
For many a sore and weary hour.

Through dreary beds of tangled fern,  
Through groves of nightshade dark and dorn,  
Over the grass and through the brake,  
Where toils the ant and sleeps the snake ;



Now over the violet's azure flush  
He skips along in lightsome mood ;

And now he thrids the bramble-bush,  
Till its points are dyed in fairy blood.

He has leaped the bog, he has pierced the  
brier,

He has swum the brook, and waded the  
mire,

Till his spirits sank, and his limbs grew  
weak,

And the red waxed fainter in his cheek.

He had fallen to the ground outright,  
For rugged and dim was his onward  
track,

But there came a spotted toad in sight,  
And he laughed as he jumped upon her  
back :





He bridled her mouth with a silkweed twist,  
He lashed her sides with an osier thong;  
And now through evening's dewy mist,  
With leap and spring they bound along,  
Till the mountain's magic verge is past,  
And the beach of sand is reached at last.



Soft and pale is the moony beam,  
Moveless still the glassy stream ;

The wave is clear, the beach is bright  
    With snowy shells and sparkling stones ;  
The shore-surge comes in ripples light,  
    In murmurings faint, and distant moans ;

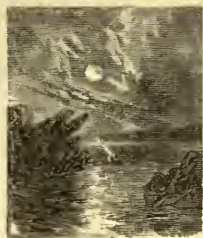
And ever afar in the silence deep  
Is heard the splash of the sturgeon's leap,  
And the bend of his graceful bow is seen—  
A glittering arch of silver sheen,  
Spanning the wave of burnished blue,  
And dripping with gems of the river-dew.





The elfin cast a glance around,  
As he lighted down from his courser  
toad,

Then round his breast his wings he wound,  
And close to the river's brink he strode ;  
He sprang on a rock, he breathed a prayer,  
Above his head his arms he threw,  
Then tossed a tiny curve in air,  
And headlong plunged in the waters blue.





Up sprung the spirits of the waves,  
From the sea-silk beds in their coral caves,  
With snail-plate armor snatched in haste,  
They speed their way through the liquid  
waste ;

Some are rapidly borne along  
On the mailed shrimp or the prickly prong,



Some on blood-red leeches glide,  
Some on the stony star-fish ride,  
  
Some on the back of the lancing squab,  
Some on the sideling soldier-crab ;  
  
And some on the jellied quarl, that flings  
At once a thousand streamy stings ;

They cut the wave with the living oar,  
And hurry on to the moonlight shore,  
To guard their realms and chase away  
The footsteps of the invading Fay.







Fearlessly he skims along,  
His hope is high, and his limbs are strong,  
He spreads his arms like the swallow's  
wing,  
And throws his feet with a frog-like fling ;

His locks of gold on the waters shine,  
At his breast the tiny foam-beads rise,  
His back gleams bright above the brine,  
And the wake-line foam behind him lies,  
But the water-sprites are gathering near  
To check his course along the tide;  
Their warriors come in swift career,  
And hem him round on every side;



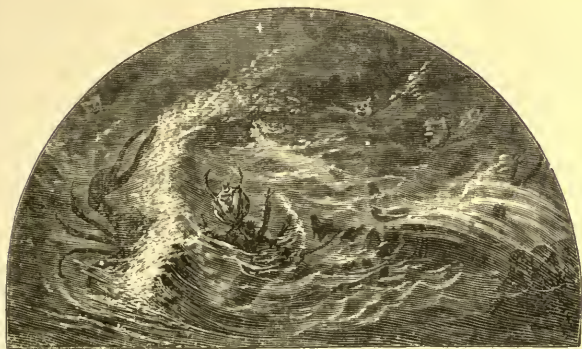
On his thigh the leech has fixed his hold,  
The quarl's long arms are round him rolled,  
The prickly prong has pierced his skin,  
And the squab has thrown his javelin,

The gritty star has rubbed him raw,  
And the crab has struck with his giant  
claw,

He howls with rage, and he shrieks with  
pain,

He strikes around, but his blows are vain ;

Hopeless is the unequal fight,  
Fairy ! naught is left but flight.





He turned him round, and fled amain  
With hurry and dash to the beach again.

He twisted over from side to side,  
And laid his cheek to the cleaving tide ;

The strokes of his plunging arms are fleet,  
And with all his might he flings his feet,

But the water-sprites are round him still,  
To cross his path and work him ill.



They bade the waves before him rise ;  
They flung the sea-fire in his eyes,

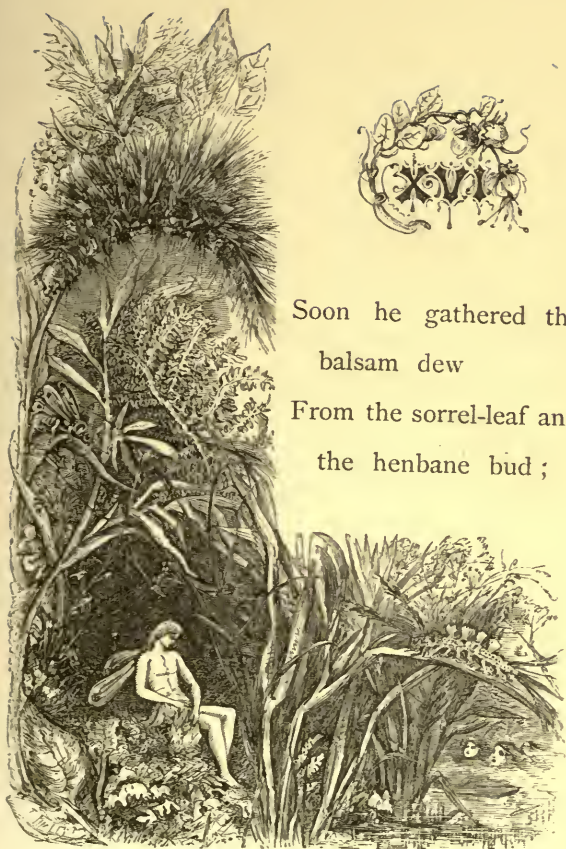
And they stunned his ears with the scallop-  
stroke,  
With the porpoise heave, and the drum-fish  
croak.

Oh! but a weary wight was he  
When he reached the foot of the dog-wood  
tree.

Gashed and wounded, and stiff and sore,  
He laid him down on the sandy shore;

He blessed the force of the charmed line,  
And he banned the water-goblins' spite,  
For he saw around in the sweet moonshine  
Their little wee faces above the brine,

Giggling and laughing with all their might  
At the piteous hap of the Fairy wight.



Soon he gathered the  
balsam dew  
From the sorrel-leaf and  
the henbane bud ;

Over each wound the balm he drew,  
And with cobweb lint he stanch'd the  
blood.

The mild west wind was soft and low,  
It cooled the heat of his burning brow,  
And he felt new life in his sinews shoot,  
As he suck'd the juice of the calamus root;  
And now he treads the fatal shore,  
As fresh and vigorous as before.







Wrapped in musing stands the sprite ;  
'Tis the middle wane of night ;  
His task is hard, his way is far,  
But he must do his errand right,

Ere dawning mounts her beamy car,  
And rolls her chariot wheels of light;  
And vain are the spells of fairy-land,  
He must work with a human hand.





He cast a saddened look around,  
But he felt new joy his bosom swell,  
When glittering on the shadowed ground,  
He saw a purple mussel-shell;

Thither he ran, and he bent him low,  
He heaved at the stern and he heaved at  
the bow,



And he pushed her over the yielding sand,  
Till he came to the verge of the haunted  
land.

She was as lovely a pleasure-boat  
As ever fairy had traveled in,  
For she glowed with purple paint without,  
And shone with silvery pearl within ;  
A sculler's notch in the stern he made,  
An oar he shaped of the bootle blade ;  
Then sprung to his seat with a lightsome  
leap,  
And launched afar, on the calm, blue deep.





The imps of the river yell and rave ;  
They had no power above the wave,  
But they heaved the billow before the prow,  
And they dashed the surge against her  
side,

And they struck her keel with jerk and blow,  
Till the gunwale bent to the rocking tide.



She wimped about to the pale moon-beam,  
Like a feather that floats on a wind-tossed  
stream ;

And momentarily athwart her track  
The quarl upreared his island back,  
And the fluttering scallop behind would float,  
And spatter the water about the boat ;  
But he bailed her out with his colen-bell,  
And he kept her trimmed with a wary  
tread,  
While on every side like lightning fell  
The heavy strokes of his bootle-blade







Onward still he held his way,  
Till he came where the column of moon-  
shine lay,

And saw beneath the surface dim  
The brown-backed sturgeon slowly swim ;  
Around him were the goblin train—  
But he sculled with all his might and main,  
And followed wherever the sturgeon led,  
Till he saw him upward point his head ;  
Then he dropped his paddle-blade,  
And held his colen-goblet up  
To catch the drop in its crimson cup.





With sweeping tail and quivering fin,  
Through the wave the sturgeon flew,  
And, like the heaven-shot javelin,  
He sprung above the waters blue.



Instant as the star-fall light

He plunged him in the deep again,  
But left an arch of silver bright,  
The rainbow of the moony main.

It was a strange and lovely sight

To see the puny goblin there ;  
He seemed an angel form of light,  
With azure wings and sunny hair,  
Throned on a cloud of purple fair,  
Circled with blue and edged with white,  
And sitting at the fall of even  
Beneath the bow of summer heaven.

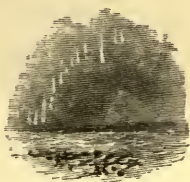




A moment, and its lustre fell ;  
But ere it met the billow blue,  
He caught within his crimson bell  
A droplet of its sparkling dew—

Joy to thee, Fay! thy task is done,  
Thy wings are pure, for the gem is won—

Cheerly ply thy dripping oar,  
And haste away/ to the elfin shore.





He turns, and lo ! on either side  
The ripples on his path divide ;

And the track o'er which his boat must pass  
Is smooth as a sheet of polished glass,



Around, their limbs the sea-nymphs lave,  
With snowy arms half swelling out,  
While on the glossed and gleamy wave  
Their sea-green ringlets loosely float ;



They swim around with smile and song ;  
They press the bark with pearly hand,

And gently urge her course along,  
Toward the beach of speckled sand ;  
And, as he lightly leaped to land,  
They bade adieu with nod and bow,  
Then gaily kissed each little hand,  
And dropped in the crystal deep below.





A moment stayed the fairy there ;  
He kissed the beach and breathed a prayer ;  
Then spread his wings of gilded blue,  
And on to the elfin court he flew ;

As ever ye saw a bubble rise,  
And shine with a thousand changing dies.  
Till, lessening far, through ether driven,  
It mingles with the hues of heaven ;



As, at the glimpse of morning pale,  
The lance-fly spreads his silken sail,  
And gleams with blendings soft and bright,  
Till lost in the shades of fading night ;

So rose from earth the lovely Fay—  
So vanished, far in heaven away!

\* \* \* \* \*

Up, Fairy! quit thy chick-weed bower,  
The cricket has called the second hour,

Twice again, and the lark will rise  
To kiss the streakings of the skies—

Up! thy charmed armor don,  
Thou'lt need it ere the night be gone.





He put his acorn helmet on ;  
It was plumed of the silk of the thistle-  
down ;  
The corslet-plate that guarded his breast  
Was once the wild bee's golden vest ;

His cloak of a thousand mingled dyes,  
Was formed of the wings of butterflies ;

His shield was the shell of a lady-bug queen,  
Studs of gold on a ground of green ;

And the quivering lance which he brand-  
ished bright,  
Was the sting of a wasp he had slain in  
fight.

Swift he bestrode his fire-fly steed ;  
He bared his blade of the bent grass blue ;  
He drove his spurs of the cockle-seed,  
And away like a glance of thought he  
flew,

To skim the heavens and follow far  
The fiery trail of the rocket-star.



The moth-fly, as he shot in air,  
Crept under the leaf and hid her there ;



The katy-did forgot its lay,  
The prowling gnat fled fast away,  
The fell mosquito checked his drone,  
And folded his wings till the Fay was gone,  
And the wily beetle dropped his head,  
And fell on the ground as if he were dead;



They crouched them close in the darksome  
shade,  
They quaked all o'er with awe and fear,  
For they had felt the blue-bent blade,  
And writhed at the prick of the elfin spear;

Many a time, on a summer's night,  
When the sky was clear and the moon was  
    bright,

They had been roused from the haunted  
    ground

By the yelp and bay of the fairy hound,

They had heard the tiny bugle-horn,

    They had heard the twang of the maize-  
    silk string,

When the vine-twigg bows were tightly drawn,  
And the nettle-shaft through the air was  
    borne,

Feathered with down of the hum-bird's wing.

And now they deemed the courier ouphe,  
    Some hunter-sprite of the elfin ground ;

And they watched till they saw him mount  
the roof

That canopies the world around ;

Then glad they left their covert lair,  
And freaked about in the midnight air.





Up to the vaulted firmament  
His path the fire-fly courser bent,  
And at every gallop on the wind,  
He flung a glittering spark behind;  
He flies like a feather in the blast  
Till the first light cloud in heaven is past.  
But the shapes of air have begun their work



And a drizzly mist is 'round him cast,  
He can not see through the mantle murk,  
He shivers with cold, but he urges fast;  
Through storm and darkness, sleet and shade,  
He lashes his steed and spurs amain,  
For shadowy hands have twitched the rein,  
And flame-shot tongues around him played,  
And near him many a fiendish eye  
Glared with a fell malignity,  
And yells of rage, and shrieks of fear,  
Came screaming on his startled ear.





His wings are wet around his breast,  
The plume hangs dripping from his crest,  
  
His eyes are blurred by the lightning's glare,  
And his ears are stunned with the thunder's  
    blare,  
  
But he gave a shout and his blade he drew,  
    He thrust before and he struck behind,



Till he pierced their cloudy bodies through,  
And gashed their shadowy limbs of wind;  
Howling the misty spectres flew,  
They rend the air with frightful cries,  
For he has gained the welkin blue,  
And the land of clouds beneath him lies,



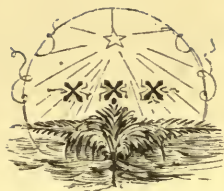


Up to the cope, careering swift,  
In breathless motion fast,  
Fleet as the swallow cuts the drift,  
Or the sea-roc rides the blast,  
The sapphire sheet of eve is shot,  
The sphered moon is past,  
The earth but seems a tiny blot  
On a sheet of azure cast.

O! it was sweet in the clear moonlight,  
To tread the starry plain of even,  
To meet the thousand eyes of night,  
And feel the cooling breath of heaven!

But the elfin made no stop or stay  
Till he came to the bank of the milky-way,  
Then he checked his courser's foot,  
And watched for the glimpse of the planet-  
shoot.

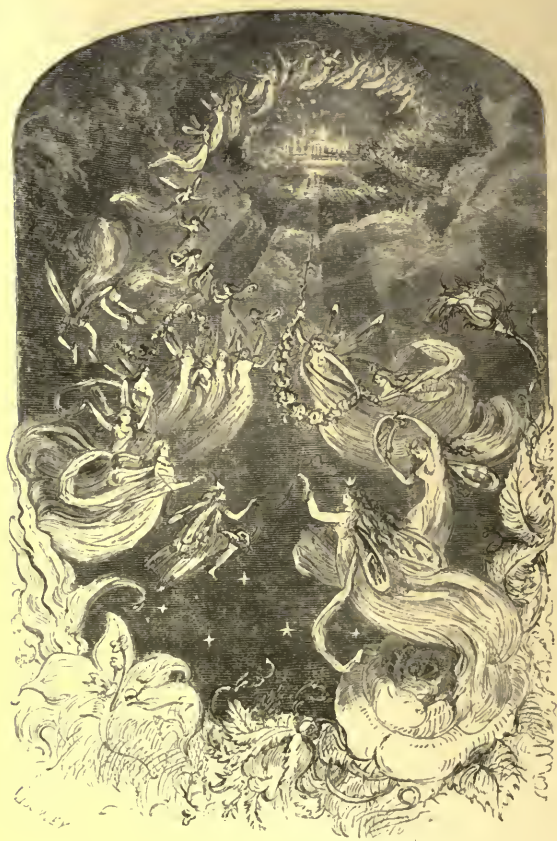




Sudden along the snowy tide

That swelled to meet their footsteps' fall,  
The sylphs of heaven were seen to glide,  
Attired in sunset's crimson pall;

Around the Fay they weave the dance,  
They skip before him on the plain,



And one has taken his wasp-sting lance,  
And one upholds his bridle-rein ;  
With warblings wild they lead him on  
To where, through clouds of amber seen,  
Studded with stars, resplendent shone  
The palace of the sylphid queen.  
Its spiral columns, gleaming bright,  
Were streamers of the northern light ;  
Its curtain's light and lovely flush  
Was of the morning's rosy blush,  
And the ceiling fair, that rose aboon,  
The white and feathery fleece of noon.





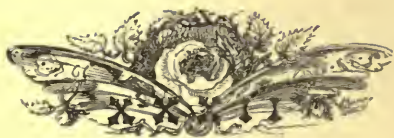
But, O! how fair the shape that lay  
    Beneath a rainbow bending bright;  
She seemed to the entranced Fay  
    The loveliest of the forms of light;

Her mantle was the purple rolled  
At twilight in the west afar;  
'Twas tied with threads of dawning gold  
And buttoned with a sparkling star.

Her face was like the lily roon  
That veils the vestal planet's hue;  
Her eyes, two beamlets from the moon,  
Set floating in the welkin blue.

Her hair is like the sunny beam,  
And the diamond gems which round it gleam  
Are the pure drops of dewy even  
That ne'er have left their native heaven.





She raised her eyes to the wondering sprite,  
And they leaped with smiles, for well I  
ween

Never before in the bowers of light  
Had the form of an earthly Fay been seen.



Long she looked in his tiny face ;

Long with his butterfly cloak she played ;  
She smoothed his wings of azure lace,  
And handled the tassel of his blade ;

And as he told in accents low  
The story of his love and woe,

She felt new pains in her bosom rise,  
And the tear-drop started in her eyes.

And "O! sweet spirit of earth," she cried,  
"Return no more to your woodland height,  
But ever here with me abide  
In the land of everlasting light!

Within the fleecy drift we'll lie,  
We'll hang upon the rainbow's rim ;



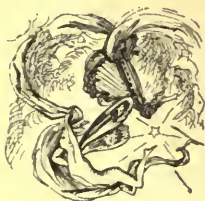
And all the jewels of the sky  
Around thy brow shall brightly beam!

And thou shalt bathe thee in the stream  
That rolls its whitening foam aboon,  
And ride upon the lightning's gleam,  
And dance upon the orb'd moon!

We'll sit within the Pleiad ring,  
We'll rest on Orion's starry belt,  
And I will bid my sylphs to sing  
The song that makes the dew-mist melt;

Their harps are of the umber shade  
That hides the blush of waking day,  
And every gleamy string is made  
Of silvery moonshine's lengthened ray;

And thou shalt pillow on my breast,  
While heavenly breathings float around,  
And, with the sylphs of ether blest,  
Forget the joys of fairy ground."





She was lovely and fair to see,  
And the elfin's heart beat fitfully ;  
But lovelier far, and still more fair,  
The earthly form imprinted there ;  
Naught he saw in the heavens above  
Was half so dear as his mortal love,

For he thought upon her look so meek,  
And he thought of the light flush on her  
cheek ;

Never again might he bask and lie  
On that sweet cheek and moonlight eye,  
But in his dreams her form to see,  
To clasp her in his revery,  
To think upon his virgin bride,  
Was worth all heaven, and earth beside.





“Lady,” he cried, “I have sworn to-night,  
On the word of a fairy-knight,  
To do my sentence-task aright ;  
  
My honor scarce is free from stain,  
I may not soil its snows again ;  
  
Betide me weal, betide me wo,  
Its mandate must be answered now.”

Her bosom heaved with many a sigh,  
The tear was in her drooping eye ;

But she led him to the palace-gate,  
And called the sylphs who hovered there  
And bade them fly and bring him straight  
Of clouds condensed a sable car.

With charm and spell she blessed it there,  
From all the fiends of upper air ;

Then round him cast the shadowy shroud,  
And tied his steed behind the cloud ;

And pressed his hand as she bade him fly  
Far to the verge of the northern sky,

For by its wan and wavering light  
There was a star would fall to-night.







Borne afar on the wings of the blast,  
Northward away, he speeds him fast,

And his courser follows the cloudy wain  
Till the hoof-strokes fall like pattering rain.

The clouds roll backward as he flies,  
Each flickering star behind him lies,

And he has reached the northern plain,  
And backed his fire-fly steed again,  
Ready to follow in its flight  
The streaming of the rocket-light.





The star is yet in the vault of heaven,  
But it rocks in the summer gale;  
And now 'tis fitful and uneven,  
And now 'tis deadly pale;

And now 'tis wrapped in sulphur-smoke,  
And quenched is its rayless beam,  
And now with a rattling thunder-stroke  
It bursts in flash and flame.

As swift as the glance of the arrowy lance  
That the storm-spirit flings from high,  
The star-shot flew o'er the welkin blue,  
As it fell from the sheeted sky.

As swift as the wind in its trail behind  
The elfin gallops along,  
The fiends of the cloud are bellowing loud,  
But the sylphid charm is strong;

He gallops unhurt in the shower of fire,  
While the cloud-fiends fly from the blaze;



He watches each flake till its sparks expire,  
And rides in the light of its rays.

But he drove his steed to the lightning's  
speed,

And caught a glimmering spark ;  
Then wheeled around to the fairy ground,  
And sped through the midnight dark.



Ouphe and Goblin ! Imp and Sprite !

Elf of eve ! and starry Fay !

Ye that love the moon's soft light,

Hither, hither wend your way ;

Twine ye in a jocund ring,  
Sing and trip it merrily,  
Hand to hand, and wing to wing,  
Round the wild witch-hazel tree.

Hail the wanderer again  
With dance and song, and lute and lyre,  
Pure his wing and strong his chain,  
And doubly bright his fairy fire.

Twine ye in an airy round,  
Brush the dew and print the lea;  
Skip and gambol, hop and bound,  
Round the wild witch-hazel tree.

The beetle guards our holy ground,  
He flies about the haunted place,





And if mortal there be found,  
He hums in his ears and flaps his face;  
The leaf-harp sounds our roundelay,  
The owlet's eyes our lanterns be;  
Thus we sing, and dance, and play,  
Round the wild witch-hazel tree.





But, hark! from tower on tree-top high

The sentry-elf his call has made:

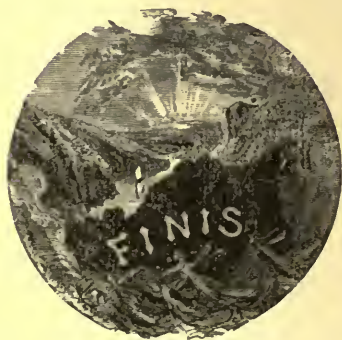
A streak is in the eastern sky,

Shapes of moonlight! flit and fade!

The hill-tops gleam in morning's spring,

The sky-lark shakes his dabbled wing,

The day-glimpse glimmers on the lawn,  
The cock has crowed, and the Fays are gone.









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